

December 12th, 2008
Louisville Ballet
Louisville, KY

Members Present: Todd Lowe, Sonya Baker, Zev Buffman, Jean Dorton, Paul Fourshee, Ronald Johnson, Dean Jones, Ed Lane, Ann Schell, Retha Tarter, Randall Vaughn, Jim Voyles

Members Absent: Wilma Brown, Everett McCorvey and Gail Russell

Others present: Staff: Lori Meadows, Chris Cathers, Suzanne Gray, Melissa Nesselrode, Maraskeshia Smith, Dan Strauss

Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet: Lindy Casebier, Deputy Secretary

Guests: Jane Gentry Vance, Kentucky Poet Laureate; Allen Cowen and Nancy Tafel, Greater Louisville Fund for the Arts, Inc.; David Cupps, Arts Kentucky; Jack Lemmon and Joseph Cox, Louisville Ballet; Elizabeth Kramer, Louisville Public Media; Anita Streeter, Kentucky Embroiderers' Guild; Jess Myers, Squallis Puppeters

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME:

Chairman Todd Lowe welcomed all in attendance and thanked Jack Lemmon, Executive Director of the Louisville Ballet, for use of the facility for the board meeting.

Todd opened the meeting by asking Jack Lemmon to give an overview of the Louisville Ballet and the impact that the Kentucky Arts Council has had on the ballet and Louisville as a community. He thanked Jack Lemmon for his service and dedication to the Louisville Ballet and wished him luck as he heads to Colorado to be the Executive Director of the Denver Ballet.

Todd introduced the current Kentucky Poet Laureate Jane Gentry Vance; Jane thanked the board for inviting her to attend and for the opportunity to speak at the meeting. Jane gave an overview of her role as Kentucky Poet Laureate, and discussed how much she has enjoyed her term and how she has learned and grown from it.

Executive Director Lori Meadows informed the board that the poets laureate receive a small stipend that goes toward their travel expenses, but it is not nearly enough to cover all of the expenses incurred; Jane has had to cover those with her own resources and Lori thanked her for this and her dedication to the literary arts as the poet laureate.

Todd presented Jane with one of her framed broadsides in appreciation for her contributions as the Kentucky Poet Laureate.

QUORUM: With 12 board members in attendance, Todd declared a quorum to be present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Todd asked the board members to review the board minutes from the September board meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Retha Tarter, seconded by Randall Vaughn. The motion was passed without objection.

COMMENTS BY BOARD CHAIRMAN:

Todd had no comments at this time.

REPORT BY TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET:

Todd asked Deputy Secretary Lindy Casebier to give a Cabinet update. Lindy welcomed Nancy Tafel with the Greater Louisville Fund for the Arts, Inc. and Joseph Cox, dancer with the Louisville Ballet. Lindy spoke about the Governor's plan to move the state out of its financial crisis. Although the proposed plan will have to be approved by the legislature, he cautioned the Arts Council to plan on upcoming budget cuts. Lindy asked the board members to contact their legislators not only to ask them to continue funding for the arts, but to also support them with their efforts to find new sources of revenue.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Members were asked to review their abstentions and note if there were any additions or deletions.

Lori gave an overview of the following grants presented for approval:

Grants:

Teacher Initiated Program Grants—Lori reminded the board that the arts council is still without an Arts Education Director, but Chris Cathers is temporarily managing the Teacher Initiated Program Grant; Lori stated that she appreciated the good work that Chris has done.

Individual Artist Professional Development Grants

Lincoln Project Grants—The funding the Kentucky Arts Council (KAC) received three years ago to cover Lincoln projects has been exhausted. Due to recent budget cuts and monies already promised for upcoming events related to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial, it is very unlikely that the Kentucky Arts Council will be able to fund the grants that are up for approval.

Lori informed the board that at the time of the panels the Kentucky Arts Council did not know what the budget reductions would be; because of this, the panelists were asked to make recommendations based on those applications that they strongly felt deserved funding if the funds were available. Lori requested that the board approve the recommendations knowing there is a high possibility we will be unable to fund them all.

Retha stated that she has noticed that the Kentucky Arts Council has begun to use more in-state panelists and the quality of the panelists has not suffered; Retha thanked Lori and the staff for their hard work in finding more in-state panelists. Lori informed the board that by using in-state panelists as much as possible it cuts back on the cost for travel expenses (i.e. airfare, hotel, etc.). Lori noted that the Kentucky Arts Council will continue to use out-of-state panelists for the Al Smith Fellowships and the Kentucky Arts Partnership Grants.

A motion to approve the grants was made by Jim Voyles and seconded by Ed Lane. The motion passed without objection.

GOVERNANCE PROCESS:

Due to the annual report not being received by the board members in sufficient time for review before the board meeting, Todd requested that the members read the annual report and give any comments/corrections to Lori or Ed Lawrence.

Lori gave an overview of the draft annual report and informed the board that the finished report will resemble the look of the FY2007 report with graphs and photographs.

Paul Fourshee asked who would receive the annual report and Lori responded that a copy of the annual report is given to all that are mentioned in the report such as Kentucky Arts Partnership grantees, partners, of the Kentucky Arts Council, legislators (with information pertaining to their constituents areas), and it is also used as a handout at meetings and workshops. Lori stated that there will be fewer of the FY 2008 annual report printed than the FY 2007 report. In an effort to cut back on the cost of printing, the Kentucky Arts Council will provide the report online; any constituent may request the hardcopy version, and the Kentucky Arts Council will mail one to them.

Paul asked if all state agencies provide annual reports; Lori informed the board that the Kentucky Arts Council is required by legislation to provide an annual report and not all state agencies are required to do so by legislation.

Todd asked Lori if we receive any feedback from those that receive the annual reports. Lori informed the board that we usually do not, but the Kentucky Arts Council did receive an award for the FY2007 Annual Report.

Todd asked Lori to report on the strategic plan draft. Lori explained the 18-20 month strategic planning process including development of revised ends statements, conducting statewide input meetings, and staff input. Lori informed the board that the strategic plan will have corresponding performance measurements, timelines, and staff responsibilities. Todd asked Lori if the strategic plan will go to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Lori informed the board that the strategic plan is required by the NEA and the draft would be sent immediately following the board meeting.

Todd asked Lori when the final version of the strategic plan is needed by the NEA. Lori responded that the NEA panel will need materials in January, and the final version of the plan would be sent with the required final report which is due in September 2009.

Ann stated that she felt the strategic plan was an excellent piece, but she had concerns about what will happen if our funding is cut and we cannot do all of the projects that are listed within the plan. Lori informed the board that the strategic plan is for five years and the hope is that the economy will improve and in five years we will be able to follow through with the projects. Lori also stated that the strategic plan is an ongoing working document; it will be revisited once a year and available funds will be considered when prioritizing projects.

Zev asked Lori how much you can add to the visual formatting and/or narrative to the strategic plan for the NEA; Lori responded that the main narrative was included in the application and when the final version of the strategic plan is sent to the NEA, more narrative will be included.

The board recommended that the draft version of the Strategic Plan to be sent to the NEA on the following Monday.

Todd asked Jean Dorton, who served as Chair of the Nominating Committee to give an updated report. Jean requested a motion to approve the nominating committee's recommendations: reappoint Todd Lowe as Chair, reappoint Randall Vaughn and Retha Tarter, and to appoint past board member Jan Tunnell.

A motion to accept the recommendations was made by Jean Dorton. The motion passed without objection

Todd asked David Cupps of Arts Kentucky to give an advocacy update. David asked the board to thank their local legislators for their support. David also asked the board to please let Arts Kentucky know if they receive word of any legislation which should be acted on. He noted that Arts Kentucky is expecting Senate Bill 1 which addresses in part assessment of the arts to be brought to the session again this year; Arts Kentucky will review the upcoming bill and make sure that it has all areas of concern covered.

Dean Jones requested that David provide the list of legislators who are currently on the education committee. Todd encouraged board members who are not currently members of Arts Kentucky to please join.

Todd requested that Lori address the advocacy report provided by the Kentucky Arts Council; Lori gave an overview of the handouts provided.

Todd asked the board to review the budget information that was provided in the handouts. Lori informed the board that the Kentucky Arts Council was asked to provide additional budget reduction plans for 1% and 4% budget cuts, which were provided to the Cabinet for the Governor. Lori stated to the board that she received word Thursday that

the Kentucky Arts Council will be receiving the 4% reduction. The second handout provided gave an overview of the past year's budget cuts the Kentucky Arts Council has received. In total, over the past year the Kentucky Arts Council has lost \$784,000.00 which is 16.5% of the state appropriation.

Ed Lane asked Lori if we could have another reduction after the 4% we will be receiving, Lori stated to the board that it is possible to have another reduction for the current fiscal year we are in and also for FY10; it is possible that we will go into FY10 lower than FY 09.

Lori stated to the board that the Kentucky Arts Council has not yet frozen grant payments, but with additional reductions it may be necessary. The Kentucky Arts Council has worked very hard this past year on reducing costs, some examples of these are:

The Kentucky Arts Council in partnership with the Kentucky Historical Society decided to cancel the 2009 Folklife Festival, instead planning one day of Family Folklore activities. The decision to cancel was not only due to budgetary issues but also because of staffing. As state employees retire, positions are not being refilled, so another concern besides the budgetary issue was the staffing that may or may not be available. In addition, the sponsorships needed for the festival are expected to be down.

For the upcoming Market, the awards reception and the Fly the Buyer program have been cancelled, and incidentals such as the live plants used for decoration throughout the market have been reduced. To help reduce printing costs, the agency has worked hard to use technology as much as possible for Market information.

Using fewer out-of-state panelists

Lowering the reimbursement rate for panelists to the state employee rates

Ann asked what our shortfall is for the Market after the budget cuts, Lori informed the board that it depends on the gate at the Market; hopefully we can bring in \$35,000.00 from admission.

Dean asked if there was a way that the Kentucky Arts Council can break even with the Market without the gate, Lori informed the board that the exhibitors are already paying a booth fee and as a state agency supporting the arts, our role is to help provide the Market as a service.

Lori requested that the board distribute the Market rack cards they were given and help us promote the Market as much as possible. Due to the economy, the exhibitor registration for the Department of Agriculture's Kentucky Proud food vendors is down. In past years the Department of Agriculture has helped subsidize booth fees for the Kentucky Proud vendors, but due to their recent budget cuts they were unable to assist with fees this year.

Chairman Lowe closed the board meeting for the Executive Session, during which time staff and guests left the meeting. No action was taken during the Executive Session.

A video interview of National Assembly of State Arts Agency CEO Jonathan Katz and National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Dana Gioia was shown, followed by general discussion.

REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Lori reported on the following Monitoring Reports:

2.0 General Executive Constraint

Retha commended Lori and staff for their professionalism

2.1 Treatment of Constituents

Retha commented that as a panel chair, she has witnessed that the constituents are treated equally and appropriately by staff

2.2 Treatment of Staff *(No comments by board)*

2.3 Financial Planning/Budgeting *(No comments by board)*

A motion to approve the Monitoring Reports was made by Ed Lane and seconded by Paul Fourshee.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OPERATIONAL UPDATE:

Current agency initiatives and projects:

October was National Arts and Humanities month. In celebration of this, the Kentucky Arts Council held several grant writing workshops across the state. The Governor's Awards in the Arts ceremony and luncheon were very successful. The Governor had some wonderful comments during the ceremony, if you were unable to attend; Todd has added them to YouTube.

American Masterpieces

The Kentucky Arts Council will provide a classroom set of Kentucky poets laureate anthologies for each high school that requests one.

The Kentucky Arts Council had three "kick-off" receptions to introduce their new publication, *Kentucky Quilt Trails: Views and Voices*.

The KAC participated in the Kentucky Book Fair; good sales of all the publications, including *Abraham Lincoln of Kentucky*, *Five Kentucky Poets Laureate: An Anthology* and *Kentucky Quilt Trails: Views and Voices* were realized.

Jane Gentry Vance participated in a reading from Kentucky poets at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. on November 18.

The Kentucky Arts Council co-hosted the American Folklore Society Annual Meeting in Louisville

Governor Beshear issued a proclamation to buy Kentucky made products; Lori and Lindy participated in the press conference at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea.

Arts Advocacy Day will be February 11th, 2009; Lori encouraged the board members to attend.

The Kentucky Arts Council has arrangements with nationally known Kentucky native garden designer and Kentucky native Jon Carloftis to participate in the upcoming Kentucky Crafted: The Market. He will give a presentation and provide garden vignettes throughout the Market incorporating Kentucky Crafted artwork.

Ann asked if the Kentucky Arts Council will provide a block of tickets for the board members for the February 2 production of “Our Lincoln” at the Kennedy Center. Lori informed the board that the Kentucky Arts Council does not have access to these, and that board members interested in attending should contact Everett McCorvey or visit the Kentucky Humanities Council web site.

DISCUSSION ON ENDS:

Lori introduced Anita Streeter from the Embroiderers’ Guild. Anita thanked the board for allowing her to speak and express her gratitude for what the Kentucky Arts Council has done for the Guild. Anita feels that working with the Kentucky Arts Council has been a great learning experience for her, especially being able to attend panel meetings. Anita stated that receipt of Arts Council funding is a reflection of the quality that they strive to uphold.

Lori introduced Jess Myers from Squallis Puppeteers. Jess also thanked the board for allowing her to speak; the Kentucky Arts Council has meant a lot to her and has pushed her to do more and to grow as an artist in order to be part of the agency’s programs.

Todd thanked Anita and Jess for sharing their experiences with the Kentucky Arts Council and how it has helped them professionally.

Todd introduced Bruce Simpson, Artistic Director of the Louisville Ballet and thanked him for the use of the facility.

BOARD SCHEDULE:

Todd reminded the board that the next board meeting will be March 27th, 2009 at the Glema Mahr Center for the Arts in Madisonville.

At Todd’s request, due to the absence of Vice-Chairman Everett McCorvey, Randall led the board meeting evaluation discussion. The following comments were made:

Randall enjoyed the presentation by Jess Myers

Retha enjoyed meeting the dancers with the Louisville Ballet

Paul felt this was a very good meeting in light of the budget reductions; he commented on how much he appreciates all that Lori and her staff are doing to work with the current and upcoming budget reductions.

Sonya appreciated that the meeting wasn’t overwhelmed solely by information of budget reductions, that the meeting was kept positive by our guest speakers.

Guest Joseph Cox commented on how much he and other artists appreciate and value all that the Kentucky Arts Council provides. Lori thanked Joseph for his support and commented that it's always good to hear that as an agency, we are moving in the right direction for our constituents.

Chairman Lowe thanked everyone for attending.

Adjournment